

16 Witnesses Testify On Eastman's Character

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LACONIA, N.H., Feb. 1 (AP) — she said because she had checked her diary.

Members of the Married Farmers Club appeared in court today to praise the character of Clifford C. Eastman, the Gilford, N.H., poultry farmer being sued by his former tenants on grounds that he installed a listening device under their bedroom.

Sixteen character witnesses — among them Eastman's four children — took the stand today in the trial of the \$125,000 damage action filed by Carl Hamberger and his wife Mae.

One of the witnesses was Mrs. Frank Sanborn, of Laconia, who told the court that she has met the Eastmans 417 times since 1957 at anniversaries, parties, back-and-forth visits and functions of the Married Farmers Club. She knew it was exactly 417 times.

Eastman was described as a "first-class gentleman" and "high type of man." Lionel Lovely, of Laconia, said "he's tops."

Earlier, under cross-examination, Eastman conceded that he "would have had better reception on this speaker if he placed it near the water pump." The defense contends the speaker-mike was placed in the cellar of the Hambergers' rented house to monitor the pump.

After the Hambergers moved out in January, 1963, Eastman said, he installed a monitoring system that operates on the same clock as the lights in his brooder houses. Lights are used to deceive the chickens into thinking days are longer so that they lay more eggs.

The speaker, the defendant said, was placed in the cellar in October, 1961, and he tuned in four or five nights a week before going to bed to check on whether the water pump was operating.

In their damage suit, the Hambergers say they suffered mental and physical anguish after finding a concealed listening device near the hot-air register in their bedroom.